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REPORT

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REFERENCES

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1. The State Secretariat for Higher and Specialized Education prepared a report, in August or September 1959, on the progress it had made since February 1958 in "the further Socialistic transformation" of education in East Germany. The report mentions that long-range planning is in progress, covering personnel development, study programmes, study plans, arrangements for practical work, and study procedures. This is being done for the departments of Chemistry, Architecture, Agriculture, Machine Construction, and Medicine; it is scheduled next for the departments of Mathematics, Physics, Social Sciences, Pedagogy, and certain linguistic branches (such as African and Asiatic studies).
2. It is stated that the most difficult and complicated problem involves the penetration of scientific teaching and research by the doctrines of dialectical materialism. At some institutions of university level, especially in Leipzig, Dresden, and Berlin, a start was made in 1958 in providing for faculty members a "scientifically sound" course in Marxist philosophy in its relation to their individual specialties. In addition, seminars and round-table discussions have been held for professors and assistants. Nevertheless, the report complains, in most fields the specialty is still unaffected by philosophy. There is even a distinct recalcitrance, particularly in some branches of the Philosophical Faculty (e.g., Germanic Philology, English, Indology, Arabic Studies) which "hitherto have hardly made contact with contemporary problems and have not dealt adequately with bourgeois decadence and with the problems of Socialist realism".
3. The shortage of new university teachers is serious, producing a disproportion between the number of faculty members of the number of students. In East Germany, at the end of 1958, the scientific and technical schools, including the universities, had about 67,500 students and 1,900 teachers. (This includes extension courses.) This is a proportion of about 36 to 1; in the Soviet Union, in the same fields, the proportion is 22 to 1, in West Germany the objective is 10 to 1, and in Switzerland it is 8 to 1.

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In some departments the figures are much worse: in Chemistry 67 to 1, Pharmacy 103 to 1, Machine Technology 131 to 1, Electro-technology 146 to 1. There are professors who have charge of as many as 100 essays for a diploma and 20 doctoral dissertations in a year. The State Secretariat asserts that this state of affairs must come to an end, and it intends to double the number of university teachers by 1965 in most departments, remarking that young graduates (Nachwuchs) and experienced scientists and practical workers for the economy must be engaged as instructors and professors.

4. The development of the common schools into "Socialist polytechnical high schools" will also necessitate a great increase in the teaching force. At least 50,000 new teachers will be needed by 1965, over half of whom will be trained in the universities.
5. Difficulty is found in inducing recent graduates to return to the universities as assistants after they have worked for two or three years in the "Socialist practice". The reason for this lies in the salary question. The basic salary of assistants in university institutes is 675 marks, whereas in industry the salary often amounts to 900-1200 marks after two years. An attempt is being made to guarantee the return of such persons as university teachers by means of contracts made in advance.
6. The universities and colleges have been affected by the "flight from the Republic", even though this has decreased in the last year. In the first six months of 1959, it is stated, 122 scholars and scientists left East Germany, of whom 7.3% were professors, 13.6% instructors, and 79.1% assistants. The largest numbers were from Berlin, Leipzig, and Halle; 46.6% came from the departments of Medicine and 18% from the departments of Mathematics and Natural Sciences. The State Secretariat gives as explanations for these flights the systematic inducement campaign of "the enemy" a large number of false concepts held by the scientists, and finally "a false attitude, in contradiction to our policy toward the intelligentsia, on the part of staff members of the universities and of various government offices".

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